of the Railways' traffic earnings. Total traffic earnings of the Railways in the first quarter have, however, registered a growth of 14.58% over the corresponding period of last year. General Managers have been addressed to take steps to reverse the trend under Sundry other earnings.

(b) Growth rates for all the segments of traffic earnings in the first quarter are as under:

(Rs. in cr.)

	To end of June, 2004	To end of June, 2005 (Approx.)	Growth over June, 2005
Passenger	3504.51	3808.59	8.68%
Other Coaching	216.90	263.20	21.35%
Goods	7091.34	8367.98	18.00%
Sundry earnings	199.84	178.32	-10.77%
TOTAL:	11012.59	12618.19	14.58%

(c) Zonal Railway administrations have, *inter-alia*, been urged to take necessary steps to increase earnings from commercial advertisement & publicity, catering, Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD)/Public Call Office (PCO), parking, commercial utilization of land/buildings etc. which form part of Sundry earnings. Further improvement in performance in other areas is also being emphasized.

Railways package tours

626. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to launch railway package tours for various places in Southern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of railway package tours currently under operation by the railways;

(d) whether the railways have received any proposal in this regard from the Southern State Governments; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

has been signed between the Indian Railways and the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) for running a luxury tourist train in the Karnataka sector.

(c) Presently, the Railways run the Palace on Wheels and the Deccan Odyssey, the luxury tourist trains; the Bharat Darshan special, a tourist train for the common people; and the Fairy Queen, a heritage steam safari.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Contractual labour system in parcel handling

627. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps will be taken to replace the contractual labour system introduced in the parcel handling in many railway stations like Trivandrum Central, Ernakulam Junction, Shornur, Kozhikode and Mangalore under Southern Railways with licensed porters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether steps would be taken to revoke the suspension of twenty two licensed porters at Kozhikode Railway station in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per policy, licensed porters should not be utilized for parcel handling work at stations, as they are to handle luggage of passengers only.

(d) No action is presently possible as the matter is sub-judice.

Rail Accidents

628. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rail accidents that occurred during the last five years, year-wise and zone-wise;